REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-3, 10, and 12 are pending in the application.

Claims 1, 5, 6, 13, 14, 17 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sanada et al. (EP 0 881 560 A2), hereinafter referred to as Sanada et al., in view of Suzuki (U.S. Patent No. 5,796,736), hereinafter referred to as Suzuki.

A double patenting rejection was raised against claims 13-24. The rejection is moot in light of the cancellation of claims 13-24.

As to the difference between Sanada et al. and the present invention, in Sanada, the upper node device has a single input/output port and the identification information of the input/output port is used as security information. However, there is no disclosure concerning the art of updating a control table, when the connection status of the input/output port was changed.

Suzuki ('736) relates to automatically recognizing relationships of physical connections between each of ATM switches in an ATM network and each of ATM terminals. However, there is no disclosure concerning the art of updating a control table, when the connection status of the input/output port was changed. Further, there is no disclosure that a control table includes identification information of upper node device, identification information of input/output port of the upper node device and information concerning access enabled or access disabled. On the other hand, in the present invention, when connection status of an input/output port was changed in the upper node device, replacement of the connection port is detected by the storage controller on the basis of information notified from the information exchanger, and in the control table, the identification. information of the connection port before replacement is replaced with identification information of the connection port after the replacement, and in case that the security information of the connection port before replacement was access enabled, security information of the connection port after replacement is set to be access enabled in the control table, and for a newly added input/output port, identification information of corresponding upper node device, identification information of the newly added input/output port and security information in which access disabled is set are registered in the

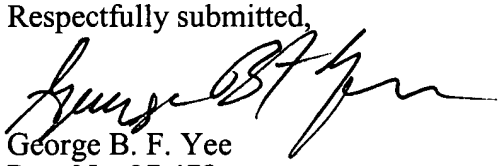
control table. None of the references disclose such specific features. Accordingly, the present invention should be regarded as being patentable over the references.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,



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